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MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL.1 NO. 9 MAY 1997

CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

5 Publisher's Page: Vonretta Singleton

7 Letters

9 Book Review: *Nappy Hair*

10 People

12 Happenings

16 Opinion Poll: *What is the Greatest Obstacle African-American Women Face?*

20 Business

32 Guest Word: Ella Jean Holmes-Hines

34 Calendar

Reflecting on Motherhood
Page 22

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
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FEATURES

10 Moss Point HOSTS

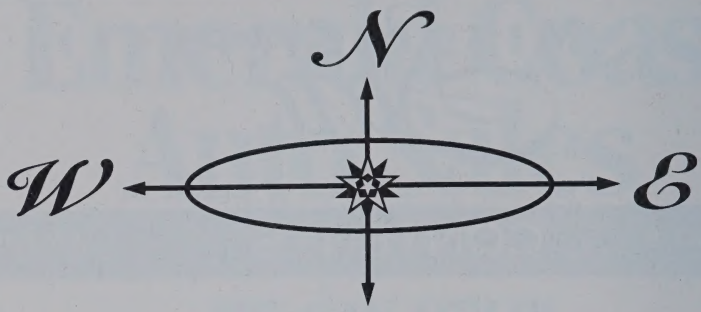
18 Fashion Touch Boutique Grand Opening

22 Influential & Inspiring African American Women in South Mississippi

27 Reflections on Motherhood

30 JSU/HIV

Fashion Touch Boutique
Grand Opening - Page 18



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PUBLISHER'S PAGE

Vonretta Singleton

It has been a pleasure observing the making of this issue - the Women's Issue - of Mississippi Star. I have had the pleasure to meet many of the women whose contributions are talked about in this issue.

I found the stories of two entrepreneurs who operate very similar businesses - combination beauty salon and clothing boutique - to be very interesting. Ethel Shaw celebrated the realization of a dream come true as she was joined by family, friends, civic leaders and media for the grand opening of Fashion Touch Boutique & Beauty Salon in Gulfport on Saturday, May 3, after years of planning and organizing. (See photo spread on page 18.)

It was also a real pleasure to meet and observe the energy of Pat Gillum, the owner of Hair Techniques in Biloxi (see Business, page 20). This lady really embodies the term entrepreneur. In addition to her salon and boutique, she operates a residential and commercial cleaning business and acts as landlord for a commercial building she owns near Edgewater Mall.

As a child raised by a single parent, I was particularly touched by the highlight of Jearlean Osborne (see People, page 9), a single parent whose actions demonstrate dedication to improving the quality of life and self esteem of adult students in the Star Adult Education Center in Biloxi.

There are many women in South Mississippi whose contributions are great but whose stories may not be included in this issue. Your contributions are important, and as time passes we hope to hear about you and your work.

I hope you feel as proud of the women who grace these pages as I do.

To All Moms...

Happy Mothers Day!

Sincerely,

Vonretta Singleton
Branch Manager
Hancock Bank Edgewater

LETTERS

Dear Maurice,

Thank you for the article, "Lawrence and Lucimarian Roberts Talk about Family." These are two people who I respect and honor as an example of a loving and caring couple.

My personal experience has been with Lucimarian when I invited her to attend the Women of Color Forum held last year at Gulfside Assembly in Waveland. She told me that she had another engagment to speak - at the Women's Expo - but that she would try to attend. Everyone at the forum felt that she would not come because of the Women's Expo engagement. Lucimarian walked into our forum all smiles that afternoon!!! The words supportive and class apply to Lucimarian Roberts.

Thank you,

Karen Frederick
Bay St. Louis

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

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LETTERS

Dear Maurice,

I would like to thank you for publishing such a positive magazine, but most of all I want you to know that your publisher's page is always inspirational because you give families hope where most of the time there is none. I am a single mother, but I grew up with very strong family values. Raising children is the hardest thing anyone can experience in life. Just saying you want to be a good parent is not enough. I have almost given up on my only son because I am tired of him not wanting to better himself. I have tried rewarding him; I have tried tough love; and I have tried the youth court system, and yes, I have prayed through it all that someone or something would be the answer. There are so many distractions to take something as good as a child and make him a want-to-be-man too fast. But kids see the fast money game as the glamorous life; hanging out, gold chains and teeth, big cars. They think by whatever means necessary. My son is only sixteen; he has been in the youth court system; he has been to counseling by professionals; and he is still heading in the wrong direction. To send him off could only harden his heart, not help, because our correctional institutions are not educational as they should be. Most of these kids end up in and out of prison. How can we save our young men from the streets? I love my son very much, and I think he is a good kid with a bad attitude towards authority, and that makes me think he will end up in jail or even worse - dead at a young age. I do make sure he attends church and we spend as much time in family surroundings as possible. He is a great athlete, but he doesn't seem to understand the importance of education. Please help me and many other mothers with similar problems.

Anonymous

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on your fine monthly magazine. I saw three issues and I was very gratified at what I saw. It is of very fine quality and something that was needed for a long time.

I have known your father and his brothers all my life and not any of them could be more proud of you than I.

Thank you and good luck.

George W. Allen Jr.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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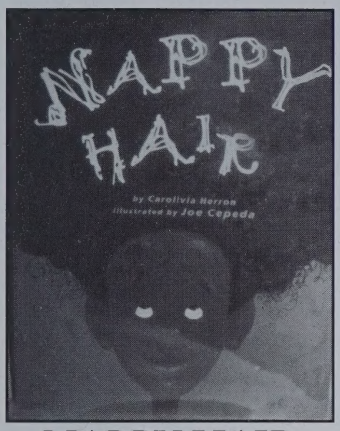

Nappy Hair

NAPPY HAIR
by Carolivia Herron
Illustrated by Joe Cepeda

Everybody at the back yard picnic is talking about little Brenda's hair—it's the nappiest, the curliest, the twistiest hair in the whole family.

Brenda, you sure do got some nappy hair on your head, don't you?

Well.

It's you hair, Brenda, take the cake.

Yep.

And come back and get the plate.

Don't cha know.

While it seems that the family is poking fun at Brenda's hair, in fact they're admiring it by uncovering its meaning, its strength, its African-ness.

The African-American tradition of call-and-response makes NAPPY HAIR a story for many voices. As the dialogue builds, its spirit draws you in, rolls you around, and doesn't let you go. Finally, its blues rhythms slow down and let you off at the end.

Nobody who has nappy hair will be able to forget little Brenda.

Ain't it the truth.

JEARLEAN OSBORNE

"Being a child of God and being able to pass on my God-given talent to others," says Jearlean Osborne is her greatest reward for the work she does as director of instruction at the Star Adult Education Center in Biloxi.

She has a very special talent: teaching and assisting adult students as they develop their talents and become productive citizens. She beams with pride as she recalls a project that resulted with success for her students. The students researched a federal government housing program, put together a proposal and presented their proposal to the Biloxi City Council.

"If literacy should do anything, it should empower people," Osborne explains as she considers the example of her students applying what they had been taught in their class at the Star Adult Education Center.

"A lot of people don't realize that they are already somebody, whether they have their G.E.D., their master's degree or Ph.D.," explains Osborne. "They are already a child of God."

A single parent of three, Osborne says that "a lot of my energy comes from being a single parent." At age 20 she was a single parent with three children.

"It was hard for us," she explained. "We lived in the West End Homes housing project (Biloxi). I taught them that it's not where you come from and to be proud of who they are. I've never had any problems with my kids, and I thank God for that."

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MATTIE SAMMS CELEBRATES 97TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Mattie Samms of Bay St. Louis celebrated her 97th birthday April 18. She is a member of First Missionary Baptist Church in Bay St. Louis. Her friends say that she has been a "second mama" to many children in Bay St. Louis. Her son, Robert Johnson and his wife, four children and five grandchildren reside in Columbus, Ohio.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL... *Casino Magic Lends a Helping Hand*

Left Photo: *Mrs. Hazel Breaux stands proudly on the porch of her home as volunteers from Casino Magic make repairs and paint as part of the first Christmas in April program in Hancock County.*
Center Photo: *Mrs. Breaux and Catherine Green, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis, Community Relations Director.*
Right Photo: *Mrs. Breaux and niece Manuelita Curry.*

TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER TO WORK DAY IN MOSS POINT

Theresa Vogel (left) is introduced to Amanda Roman's daughter Zaire during National Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Both women are secretaries in the Moss Point School system.

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Darrius Harris, a student at East Park Elementary, and his volunteer mentor Jacqueline Jackson have a great relationship. He appreciates the time she spends helping him improve his reading skills, and she admires his willingness to work hard to improve his academic abilities. "He's a good kid," said Jackson. "He's serious minded."

A teaching assistant at the school, Jackson volunteers as a HOSTS mentor during a free period. HOSTS stand for Help One Child To Succeed. According to Jackson, many teachers and administrators at the six Moss Point Schools that do HOSTS volunteer during lunch or other free periods. But the schools hope to build their pool of community volunteers as the program begins to take off.

"What about the grandmothers sitting on the porch?" said Jackson. "They could help teach a child to read. And people on their lunch hours can do this instead of going out to lunch.

"A small amount of time will help a lot for some students," said Jackson. "It's the one-on-one that often clicks on a light. And most of the time the mentors get something back as well as the students."

Darrius believes his HOSTS mentor is making a big difference in his life. "I understand my reading better and my language (class)," he said. "It's been helping me with my spelling...and with my math." According to Darrius he's doing better in all class work because of the help his mentor provides.

Kreole, Escatawpa, Charlotte Hyatt, West and East Park elementary schools in Moss Point, as well as Ed Mayo Junior High are all using the HOSTS method to help children who have fallen below grade level in reading to catch up with their peers.

Jackson believes that HOSTS has a residual benefit for the whole school. "I think that HOSTS is opening the door for parents and the community to come in and see children in progress. Parent involvement is always needed; children act better when parents n grandparents are in the school, the atmosphere is better," said Jackson.

Community members that wish to become HOSTS mentors may call 474-3398 to sign up

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Dr. Kim Vaz: Empowering Women
My Current View of the Bible by Bobbie Hays
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OPINION POLL:

What is the greatest obstacle African-American women face?

Sandra Fairley says that the most critical problem facing African-American females is the incidence of teenage sex and pregnancy. "Lust is of Satan; love is of God. Lust can not wait; love can wait. Marriage is too big of a deal to jump into without knowing that there is true love there. The main thing is for Christian women to come together and talk with these young ladies and explain to them what's happening, Our kids are blind. They're hearing on radio, filth; they're seeing on television, filth; they're reading in the newspapers, filth. What they need is for some people who care about them to bring them together and talk to them one on one."

CATHRYN SANDRA FAIRLEY

Cathryn Sandra Fairley
Manager/Owner
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"Looking at my girls, I don't believe it's getting any easier in terms of what they'll have to face. They're going to have to deal with black males and white males and females as being recognized as intelligent human beings and not being stereotyped as being irresponsible and loose women. It's harder for a black female to stay focused on attaining her goals and not being tempted by obstacles such as settling for premature marriage or getting pregnant."

VERONICA MCCORD

Veronica McCord
Pass Christian

"It's difficult for African-American women who have lived away to find adequate employment. If we networked with each other or if we could become organized, we could work with employers to come up with an equitable solution. The way it is now, you have to have secretarial skills to find employment. That's all that's available. The companies that come in bring their own managers."

HELEN MEGGS FORD

Helen Meggs Ford
Center Director
Save Our Children Center
Bay St. Louis

The biggest obstacle I see with the many young women I deal with is that many of them are being trained in vocational and technical programs for jobs that they are qualified for - on paper - but they fail to make the complete change. Many don't want to conform to improve in diction, personal grooming - the finger wave doesn't go with every type of job. Another example, it's not acceptable in the medical field to wear five rings on one hand. Many of them don't want to meet the appearance standards of the prospective employers. Self-esteem appears to be very low. Some are comfortable when speaking with their peers, but they won't talk up in an interview. They'll answer questions but they won't say much more. I think this comes from the home environment or basic surroundings. In order to overcome this churches, counselors, caring women in the community and all of us are going to have to take responsibiltiy to address whatever needs we see to effectively promote change.

JUDY VERNETT

Judy Verrett
Career Counselor/
Placement Specialist
Gulfport Job Corps Center

Opinion Poll continued on page 31...

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Fashion Touch Bout
GRAND

Ethel Shaw (owner) and daughter, Deborah Hardy (manager) behind Grand Opening cake.

Gulfport Mayor Ken Combs tak

Deborah Hardy (center) with friends, Darlene Cruthirds (left) and Lashawn McCarty.

Ethel Shaw shows one of the uni carried by Fashion Touch Bou

ue and Beauty Salon
PENING

he ceremonial ribbon cutting.

Ethel Shaw is joined by Rev. S.V. Adolph, Jr., pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church of Handsboro.

Walter Scott, Director of Minority Business Enterprise Division of Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development enjoying celebration.

Ethel Shaw introduces her special neighbor, Mr. Byrd.

PAT GILLUM IS ALL BUSINESS

PAT GILLUM

Pat Gillum is a very busy lady. She operates a beauty salon, a commercial and residential cleaning service and she sells women's clothing, jewelry and accessories from a building she purchased in 1995 on Executive Place near Edgewater Mall.

"There was a time when I never dreamed that I could own a commercial building in such a great area as this," Mrs. Gillum said as she took a moment recently to relax before her first hair appointment client arrived. And although we didn't talk about it, appointments appear to be one of the key elements to her time management formula which allows her to shift gears from hair stylist to fashion consultant to commercial or residential cleaning person.

"I never had a problem with low self-esteem," she explains as I try to picture her adapting from her roles in the beauty salon or dress shop to that of a domestic in the homes of her four residential accounts. "You have to understand that there is good money to be made cleaning houses. I look at it as a job, and I don't mind work. If I win the lottery, I would be the same; I would continue doing what I do."

One thing she will certainly continue to do is cook. "I love to cook, and I like food," she said. "I'm a country girl and I'm used to eating home-cooked meals."

A native of Gulfport, Mrs. Gillum worked as a hair stylist at Gayfers Edgewater for approximately eleven years before she branched out on her own in 1991. "I wanted to make something of myself," she says was her motivation for taking the risk to open her own shop.

She gives credit to her husband for

his role in her business. "My husband is the backbone behind all of this," she explained. "He helps me a lot. There is no way that I could do all that I do without him. He supports me."

Gillum also recognizes her former landlord, Barbara Delano, for giving her the opportunity to buy the two-story building which houses two of her businesses. Gillum rented space from Delano and the two of them developed a good business relationship during that time.

What advice would Gillum give to anyone starting a business or considering starting a business: "It's not hard to start any business. The main thing is to be there, do it and do it well. Word of mouth could get you more business than you can handle. You have to stay focused," she said. "You have to keep on because the next day may be so much better. You have to keep the faith and pray every day." MS

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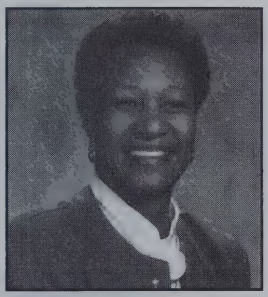
Influential South Mississippi African-American Women



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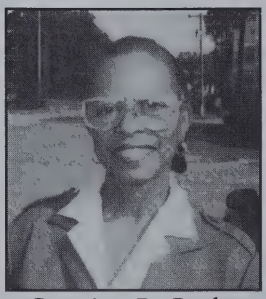

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Geraldine Lang
Community Activist
Bay St. Louis

Marian Tillman Martin
Executive Director
Gulfside Assembly
Waveland

Oseola McCarty
Philanthropist & Author
Hattiesburg

Natalie Mason
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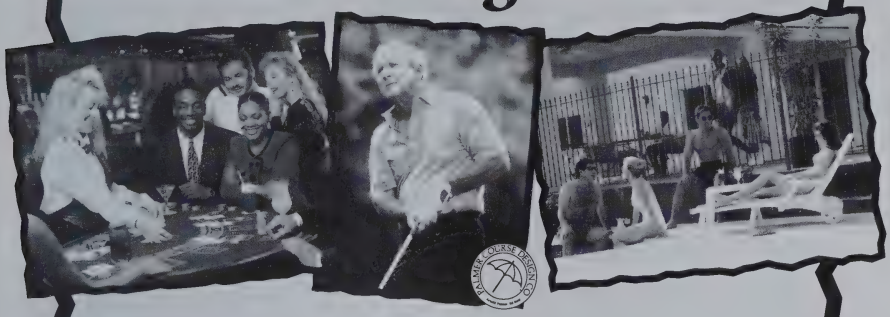

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Reflections on Motherhood

Audrey Dunn

"My greatest challenge is being all the roles a mother has to be," Audrey Dunn explained. "Being a working mother, like so many mothers, it can become a real chore just to keep up with everyone's needs. But having the opportunity to do it is one of life's greatest joys.

"As a mother you have such great influences on your children's lives every day. That's why it is so important that every chance I have to spend with them must be good quality time. If you work outside of the home, someone else is influencing your children while you're not there, whether it is school teachers, sitters, other children, etc.; and those influences may be positive or negative. Therefore, when we are together my husband and I try to teach and influence family values to our children, just as they were taught to us. There is a lot of peer pressure that children face today, and I have to be prepared to counteract those pressures. Being there for them and giving them all the love and support they need is important to me as well as them.

"Sometimes it seems as though you are being pulled in every direction because you are having to juggle work, school activities, and other activities that your children are involved in.

"Having a very supportive husband makes it a lot easier for me. We both have jobs and we both pitch in to help at home. If one is cooking, the other is helping our eight year old with homework, or doing the laundry.'

Audrey Dunn is the director of human resources at Hancock Medical Center. Audrey and her husband, Donald have three children: Kenwa, 19, a sophomore at Pensacola Junior College, two daughters, Tara, 8, and Aleia, seven months. The Dunn's reside in Picayune.

Reflections on Motherhood

Marian Tillman Martin

"Becoming a mother made me appreciate my own mother," Marian Tillman Martin warmly recalls. "I was able to put into perspective those things I couldn't hear when she was trying to tell me.

"The one thing I remember most vividly that I regret to this day: I was very rebellious growing up - I didn't march with my graduation class in college. I did in high school. I guess that was a sign of the times. I finished college a long, long time ago and I was rebelling against everything - in our own way, which was quite different from now. It taught me a lot.

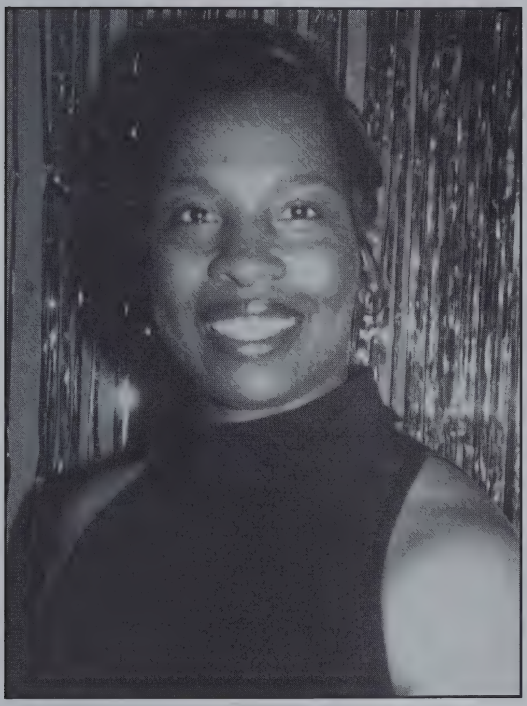
"I also didn't want a wedding, so I just went and got married and told people about it a couple of weeks later. But then later when my first son got married, you would have thought that I was the mother of the bride; I had such a good time doing this wedding and stuff; and I said "Oh, I had deprived my mother of something she would have really enjoyed. She never said anything about it; I don't think it really mattered to her. But it was something I deprived her of," she explained.

"My mother taught school for forty-two years. All the things she tried to teach us growing up came into perspective when we were raising our children."

Marian Tillman Martin is the executive director of Gulfside Assembly in Waveland. She and her husband Roosevelt have four adult sons.

Reflections on Motherhood

Patricia Tice



Patricia Tice says respect is the most important thing to consider as she reflects on her responsibilities as a mother. "I am from the old school," Tice explains. "My mother taught me to respect our elders and to respect myself.

When teaching her four children about respect, Tice said, "I sat them down and tried to explain to them that if you respect yourself and you respect others you would go a long way. I would talk to them about what I expected of them and how I was raised. And I would also give them the chance to express their opinions which I never had a chance to do. It is a different time and age, especially from when I was a child. Tice says that her greatest reward is to know that she has succeeded at being a parent.

"My son is re-enlisting this year (Air Force). Just the other day he told me that he was planning on retiring from the Air Force. This is very pleasing to me because this is what I had always wished and hoped for - for them to succeed in life. His twin sister is a student at USM (University of Southern Mississippi) with maybe a semester and a half to go before she receives her degree in elementary education. And that makes me feel very proud.

"My seventeen year old will be a senior and a dual student which means she will be a high school senior half a day and a college student the other half. This lets me know that I have done a very good job."

Pat Tice is the reigning NAACP Hancock County Mother of the Year. She is married to Everrett Tice. Their four children are twins, Tory and Kory Gibson, 21, April Gibson, 17, and Mischa Tice, 4.

Jackson State University HIV/AIDS Program Selected as National Model

An HIV/AIDS information program developed at Jackson State University through its Community Health Program has been selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC/DASH) as a national model to reduce the incidence of the disease in African American youth.

The program, Becoming a Responsible Teen or BART, was designated by the CDC/DASH as one of four model HIV prevention curricula "Programs that Work" for the nation.

A study documenting the effectiveness of BART was published in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology in 1995. During the study, program participants were followed for one year after the program ended. The results were analyzed separately for boys and girls, sexually-active vs. abstinent youths, then compared to the results from a typical program. The BART program was found to be more effective in deferring sexual onset in abstinent youth and reducing risky behaviors in sexually active youth than the typical informational/educational program

BART came to the attention of the CDC after the results were published. All intervention programs for school age youth that are published each year go through a rigorous screening process by DASH. Programs that meet the DASH criteria are submitted to a panel of scientist for review and criticism. Those that clear that panel are then submitted to another panel of reviewers in the field who then evaluate the program under different criteria.

After its selection, CDC/DASH contracted with the Education Development Center in Boston to prepare the program for national dissemination. Training in the program began in April 1996. Since then several national training workshops for state and local departments of education, as well as representatives from community-based organizations, have been held.

BART began as a program funded at Jackson State University by the National Institutes of Mental Health in 1990. The program was conducted in collaboration with the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. The principal investigator for the program was Dr. Janet St. Lawrence, professor of Psychology at JSU. The co-principal investigator was Dr. Aaron Shirley, who was then director of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center.

For more information about BART, contact the Community Health Program at Jackson State University at 973-3693. MS

OPINION POLL:

Continued from page 17...

FELECIA DUNN BURKES

Understanding that an individual's socio-economic status in large part affects the manner in which and the degree to which any given issue impacts the distinct members of a group as diverse as "African American Women", my response to the question posed must be access to quality education.

The public school system in America is deplorable. A private school education is, for most African American families, unaffordable and inaccessible. Consequently,

female students of color are trapped in an educational system that is housed in facilities that are antiquated. The majority of the school districts in this country are underfunded and suffer from an epidemic shortage of certified teachers. In such an environment, the educationfal foundation that is necessary to academic achievement at the college or undergraduate level cannot be properly laid. Without a college degree, African American women will remain on the bottom of the economic ladder relegated to minimum wage jobs that offer little opportunity for advancement, promotion and/or salary increases.

The solution must be multi-faceted. First, the American public school system must reinstate the premise that a primary and secondary education must provide students with basics - reading, writing and arithmetic. In its present state, the public school system has assumed societal roles that are not, I submit, the function or responsibility of an institution of learning. Schools should not be responsible for moral instruction of the student body. The nutritional well being of a student should not fall on the shoulders of the public schools. Schools should not be forced to contend with a child's behavioral problems. Simply put, we as a society must free schools to do that which they are designed to do - TEACH. Second, teaching must again

Continued on Page 33...

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ELLA JEAN HOLMES-HINES

I have found this entire campaign process most exciting and rewarding and I will always thank God for the kindness he has shown me through my husband, Merlon, our families, our friends and excellent supporters. This truly has been one of the mountaintop experiences of my life.

ELLA JEAN HOLMES-HINES

I have always been encircled with strong role models beginning with my mom, Mrs. Emma Holmes and the women of East and West Railroad of North Gulfport. My church, community and teachers have played an important role shaping my life. A strong role model makes an impression upon a child that continues throughout a lifetime. Working as a mentor in the county and city schools, and being a godmother of four, it is very important to watch what example children will remember. It was impressionable upon me and whether we decide to become a positive or not so positive an influence, children will remember.

Seniors have shaped my life and I truly enjoy meeting and talking with them as I am walking door to door, for they offer something special, just for the asking. They have wisdom, experience and so much love. I feel that it is so important to couple young people and Seniors together to allow the generations to coexist and influence the paths youths will choose and perhaps make their paths a bit lighter.

Education has always been my parents' strong suit, and they continue to instill that education will open doors for anyone who will allow themselves to be taught, not only in the schoolhouses, but also in the churches, the communities, and through family successes and failures. If you allow each season and experience to teach you, it is worth enduring.

I had an opportunity to study abroad in Innsbruck, Austria where I recognized a "trinity" mentality: education, family, and country were all priorities. I witnessed how much strength and energy were contained in many families and how generations continued to excel and help each other, as with our history. We must get back to what we know to be true. It's time that we uplift each other, love each other and give back to our families what has been given to us.

I was born, educated and lived in North Gulfport, until I married Merlon Hines, and moved to Turkey Creek about two and a half years ago. The Turkey Creek community has been gracious in receiving me as one of their own. This is why protection of communities is so important, because our very roots are tied there, for generations to come. I am grateful to Ward 3 for this opportunity to be your candidate. MS

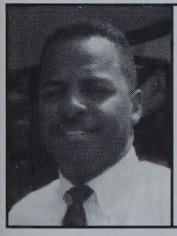
OPINION POLL:

Continued from page 31...

be a valued and respected profession in our society. In days past, the best and brightest college students embraced and pursued a career in teaching as teachers were viewed as professionals and compensated accordingly. In today's America, teachers are so poorly compensated and so devalued that collegians select more fiscally rewarding careers. We must recognize that teachers are as valuable to the preservation and advancement of our society as physicians, accountants, engineers, attorneys and the like and commit the resources necessary to again attract the best and brightest amongst us to the teaching profession. Third, we must provide each child the opportunity to attend a community school. Community schools would draw students from the surrounding neighborhoods which will, ideally, result in smaller classrooms. The time has come when we must accept that no teacher, even the most dedicated and diligent, can teach a classroom of 50 students as effectively as a classroom of 20 students.

MS

Felecia Dunn Burkes, Esq.
Gulfport



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Calendar

May 3
Fashion Touch Boutique &
Beauty Salon
Grand Opening
707 Watkins Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi
11:00 a.m.

May 5
Mississippi Gulf Coast
Association
of Back Journalists Meeting
7:00 p.m.

May 6
Teacher Recruitment Day '97
Jackson State University
General Purpose Room
Jacob L. Reddix Campus Union
Jackson, Mississippi
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Call: JSU Office of Career
Counseling
and Placement at 601-968-2477

May 10
120th Spring Commencement
Exercises
Jackson State University
Lee E. Williams Athletics and
Assembly Center
Jackson, Mississippi
9:00 a.m.

May 10
St. Rose de Lima Horseshoe
Tournament
Annual Fair Fundraiser
Martin Luther King Park
Washington Street
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
11:00 a.m. - until

May 10
Too-No Books Etc.
Book Signing
Angela Glaude-Hosch
Author of "Reflections of the
Soul"
Moss Point, Mississippi
Call: 601/474-7248

May 17
5th Annual Helpline Benefit
Golf Tournament
Host: Robin Roberts
Sunkist Country Club
Biloxi, Mississippi
1:00p.m.
Contact: Tim Wold 388-3961

May 19
NAACP Hancock County
Chapter
Monthly Meeting
Valena C. Jones Methodist
Church
Bay St. Louis
7:00p.m.

Coming in July: *Churches and Pastors Listing*
See page 8...for details

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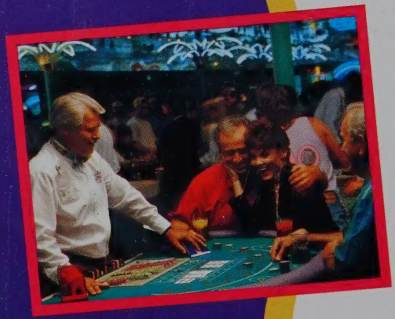

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